Chairman

Mayor John David Franz City of Hidalgo

**Vice-Chairman** Joe Vera III City of Hidalgo

**Treasurer**Eddie Aldrete
IBC Bank

## Executive Committee

Mayor Ramsey Cantu City of Eagle Pass

Mayor John F. Cook City of El Paso

Mayor Richard H. Garcia City of Edinburg

Mayor Chris Boswell City of Harlingen

Mayor Bobby Fernandez City of Del Rio

Mayor Raul G. Salinas City of Laredo

Mayor Richard Cortez City of McAllen

Mayor Norberto Salinas City of Mission

Mayor Ruben Villarreal City of Rio Grande City

Judge Ramon Garcia Hidalgo County

Pat Townsend Mission EDA

## Committee Chairs

John Cook Transportation

Dr. Hector Gonzalez Healthcare

Blas Castaneda Workforce Development

Monica Weisberg-Stewart Immigration & Border Security

## Mission:

To make Legislative recommendations to help the Texas Border Region grow and prosper economically.



Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

May 25, 2011

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Texas Border Coalition (TBC) represents over 2.5 million people living in dozens of border communities from Brownsville to El Paso. We're aware of the needs of our residents and the challenges they face in their neighborhoods. Many do not have access to the benefits of high speed Internet due to financial constraints or lack of build-out to their areas. At TBC, we hope to change this and improve the lives of millions of people who need more reliable wireless access to telemedicine, education and emergency responders.

The expansion of mobile broadband would provide a means for border residents to connect to the Internet, even without costly additional service. As the use of wireless devices grow, it's clear that minorities are more likely to access broadband on their phones than on a computer. By merging T-Mobile and AT&T's networks, the combined company would have enough resources to expand 4G LTE build out to more than 97 percent of the population, going deeper into rural towns and small cities like those along the Texas border.

As technology is expanded, more high-paying jobs will be created for Americans. By investing in wireless, our residents will gain both connectivity and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Blas Castaneda

Chair, Texas Border Coalition Workforce Committee.

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Attwell Baker